

REPORT
OF THE
SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BROOKLYN

Union for Christian Work.

ORGANIZED NOV., 1866. INCORPORATED JUNE, 1871.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

531 FULTON STREET,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.
1873.

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Board of Managers.

JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM,	<i>President.</i>
CHARLES P. GERRISH,	<i>First Vice-President.</i>
REV. S. H. CAMP,	<i>Second Vice-President.</i>
MISS FANNY HULL,	<i>Secretary.</i>
SYLVESTER SWAIN,	<i>Treasurer.</i>

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MRS. ANNA C. FIELD		
WILLIAM C. GARDNER,		
ISAAC H. CARY,	}	1874
MISS MARY HAVILAND,		
E. A. DOTY,		
MRS. CHESTER BILLINGS,	}	1873
ROBERT F. SMITH,		
EDWARD CROMWELL,		



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT, MR. JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—After the lapse of a twelvemonth we are again met together in this accustomed place, in the interest of the “Union for Christian Work,” which completes to-night the sixth year of its existence.

In proceeding to make its annual report, which now again devolves upon me to do, I may say at the outset, that in glancing back over the doings of the past year, we see a continuance of that success which it has been hitherto the good fortune of the institution to enjoy; success in respect to philanthropic results achieved through its various channels of usefulness, as well as in the important matter of its finances.

The rooms in Fulton Avenue during the year that is just closed, have been open daily and nightly. The bright transparency over the entrance, has continuously announced to the passing crowd, that here was a Free Reading Room indeed, giving a hint of the cheer and welcome to be found within, and the hundreds of wayfarers who have accepted its cordial invitation to enter, are so many witnesses to the good it has accomplished.

At times during the past summer the Reading Room has had its every seat occupied with readers—poor, indeed, many of them, but orderly and attentive.

The books on the shelves of the Library, the magazines, the periodicals, have each served their turn in furnishing entertainment and instruction, while the newspapers, filled with intelligence from all quarters, with editorials and with advertisements, have been of still more practical service to the many who have pored over their columns in search of amusement, information or employment.

It is not given to us to *know* what measure of good these things have contributed towards the sum of human improvement, but we may not doubt that in the light and cheer shed upon the reading tables, many a world-tossed soul has found a few hours of repose and comfort, and has proved the truth of the old saying, “that a library is medicine for the mind indeed.”

In the last annual report the needs of the Library were pointed out, and these needs have been the subject of attention during the past year.

To some extent they have been met and, in regard to the number of books as well as in an improved system of management, the Library has made some progress towards the desired end.

From private contributions, over one hundred volumes have been received, the most important being a gift of fifty books from Rev Dr. Farley.

By purchase, about one hundred and fifty more have been added, and they comprise a careful selection from that which is best in past and contemporaneous literature.

For this important acquisition, we are indebted to the Rev. Robert Collyer, the purchases having been made with the pro-

ceeds of his lecture on Robert Burns, given last winter at the Academy of Music. It was thought by the Board of Managers peculiarly appropriate to thus dispose of the fruits of his effort in our behalf, so that the words of the large-hearted preacher of Chicago might be perpetuated in another form, and through the pages of the great authors in poetry and drama, in fiction and history, reach the ears of hundreds who did not hear his voice.

With such poets as Shakespeare, Milton, Burns and Byron, upon the shelves; such writers of fiction as Scott, Thackeray, Dickens and Hawthorne; such historians as Gibbon and Prescott; such essayists as Lamb, Hood, Holmes, Emerson and Montaigne, now at the command of any and all for the asking, we may rest assured that the usefulness of the Library is indeed widened out, and that the good it does will, as time goes on, not fail to increase and multiply.

In the general management of the Union for Christian Work, the record of the past year is necessarily much a repetition of the foregoing, and yet new points of interest develop themselves from time to time, and show how useful such an institution is in the practical improvement of the masses. Night after night there assemble in these rooms men and boys from far and near—the reading room for adults quiet and orderly, the rooms above busy with the hum and bustle which seems inseparable from a crowd of boys, however well controlled, all of them kept out of harm's way, during those hours of the evening so perilous to youthful morals.

The classes in drawing and writing have gone on this Fall with renewed vigor, as witnessed by the fact that on many evenings every seat at the tables has been occupied by its respective pupil. The system of giving prizes in the order of merit, to the most deserving was again adopted last spring with good results,

and it was a pleasant thing to witness the pride with which they were received by the successful ones, before the room crowded with their fellows.

Girls also are again cared for this season by the benevolent ladies, who conduct the sewing class in its weekly meetings, thus evincing that the institution aims to confer its benefits upon all liberally, without regard to age, sex or condition.

The Savings Bank for the boys which was established in the Spring of last year, has grown in favor and importance.

The number of depositors has constantly increased, so that the total of the small sums placed in the bank, by the boys out of their savings, from time to time, has reached the sum of one thousand dollars, while the present balance on hand is not far from three hundred dollars.

When it is considered of what small sums these deposits are made up, and that they represent the savings of boys who would hardly be supposed to have anything to save, the figures assume a greater importance than appears at the first glance ; but we may hope that the moral results of this encouragement to the practice of the virtues of thrift and economy, is more even than figures can express.

Thursday evenings, are as heretofore, the appointed times for the giving of occasional entertainments, suitable for the amusement and instruction of the boys, who have again responded to the efforts of their kind friends by a room filled with interested spectators, and furthermore, by a good conduct and demeanor seldom seen among such an audience. The influence of kind and sympathetic treatment over the minds of the rough youths of our cities, could have no better argument in its favor than is thus offered at the rooms of the Union for Christian Work.

While the pleasures of the boys have thus been cared for, those

of the friends of the Institution have not been forgotten. I allude to the series of five sociables held in the commodious hall of the Brooklyn Institute last winter, under the management of gentlemen connected with the Union, and which proved increasingly successful, as the season progressed.

They seemed to be occasions of genuine enjoyment, and doubtless served a good purpose in promoting fellowship and good feeling among those who attended them, as well as in adding to the interest felt in the Institution under whose auspices they were carried out. There is no reason to doubt that the second series to be given this winter will be equally successful and efficacious.

The friends of the Union have not failed us during the past year in the important matter of subscriptions, and the many contributions to our fund, some of them unsolicited, betoken the active sympathy and warm hearts of its supporters. The amateur dramatic entertainment given last winter in Washington Street, resulted in a welcome addition to our resources, and we are able to report that we close the financial year successfully and well. The effort to establish a reserve fund, seemed to meet general approval, and some of the subscribers directed a portion of their subscriptions to be placed therein. By a careful husbanding of its resources, the managers of the Union have been able to lay by a further sum, so that the reserve fund, which was one thousand dollars last year, has now increased to sixteen hundred dollars, all on deposit and drawing interest, while we enter upon the new year with all debts paid, and an unappropriated balance of nearly two hundred dollars in the Treasury.

If it be asked, do the labors of the Union for Christian Work yet meet a need and supply a want of the masses of the city of Brooklyn, we point for reply to the steady stream of new comers, as recorded on its book of registry, where more than five hundred

boys who had not previously entered its doors, have, during the past year, applied for admission, bringing the total of names up to over three thousand three hundred; while the establishment of other reading rooms by other churches since the Union was opened, would seem to point out that the field is a true one, in which perhaps our efforts have been the means of inducing others to work also.

But at this stage of progress, it is not to be doubted that the opinion of the world is fully settled as to the value of institutions of this character. Let the mind depict the condition of society as it would be with schools and churches, newspapers, books and libraries swept away, and we can best form an adequate idea of their worth as they exist to-day.

The true communism will be reached when the principle is fully accepted, that one class must give what the other needs.

Then will Unions be multiplied throughout the land, the golden rule "to do unto others even as we would that they should do unto us," may be a fact as well as a precept, and the hearts of men be gladdened to behold accomplished the Christian ideal of a world, where the strife is only to prove that mankind in all its diverse interests, yet is but one brotherhood indeed.

BROOKLYN, NOV. 19, 1872.

EMPLOYMENT.

The names and addresses of the employment Committee are as follows :

E. A. Doty,	123 William St., N. Y.
Mrs. A. C. Field,	158 Hicks St., Brooklyn.
EDWARD CROMWELL,	145 Joralemon St., Brooklyn.
ISAAC H. CARY,	{ 105 & 107 Chambers St., N. Y. 19 Smith St., Brooklyn.
W. C. GARDNER,	{ 43 & 45 White St. N. Y. 91 Hicks St. Brooklyn.

Any one having vacancies for places suitable for boys of the class, that come to the "Union Rooms," can have them filled by applying to either members of the above Committee.

BROOKLYN UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

Treasurer's Annual Statement.

RECEIPTS.

From Balance of acct. 1871.....	\$107 99
" Subscriptions.....	4,108 45
" Proceeds Rev. R. Collyer's Lecture.....	142 02
" " Dramatic Entertainment.....	102 35
" Annual Dues.....	108 00
" Interest on funds invested.....	81 14
" Sale of useless Furniture, etc.....	25 22
	<hr/>
	\$4,675 17

EXPENDITURES.

For Rent of Rooms.....	\$1,400 00
" Salaries.....	1,144 99
" Repairs and Furnishings for Rooms.....	251 08
" Periodicals and Newspapers.....	212 88
" Materials for Classes.....	129 99
" " Gas and Fuel.....	437 57
" New Books in Library.....	153 80
" Advertising and Printing.....	76 15
" Sundries.....	69 85
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Placed to Reserve Fund.....	\$3,876 31
Balance in hands of Treasurer.....	\$600 00
	198 86
	<hr/>
	\$4,675.17

BROOKLYN, Nov. 19, 1872.

SYLVESTER SWAIN, *Treasurer.*

List of Subscribers for 1871-2.

A. A. Low.....	\$500
Ripley Ropes.....	250
Mrs. Maria Cary.....	200
Alex. M. White.....	200
E. H. R. Lyman.....	200
Josiah B. Blossom.....	200
Geo. S. Cary.....	150
C. P. Gerrish.....	100
Wm. S. Tisdale.....	100
Isaac Hyde, Jr.....	100
J. W. Frothingham.....	100
D. B. Halsted.....	100
Jas. S. Noyes.....	100
Morris Reynolds.....	100
Geo. B. Archer.....	100
Samuel Quincy.....	100
Chas. S. Farley.....	100
J. O. Low.....	100
Jas. B. Blossom.....	100
D. Littlejohn.....	50
J. H. Frothingham.....	50
Miss A. B. Cary.....	50
Jas. Cassidy.....	50
Jas. R. Blossom.....	50
C. B. Tatham.....	50
R. W. Ropes.....	50
F. A. Blossom.....	50
Chester Billings.....	50
Thos. P. Salter.....	50
Chas. Field.....	50
E. A. Doty.....	50
Harry Hyde.....	25
W. C. Gardner.....	25
Mrs. C. Mali.....	25
D. C. Robbins.....	25
J. W. Stearns.....	25

R. H. Manning.....	\$25
Alfred T. White.....	25
W. H. Cromwell.....	25
Jas. Littlejohn.....	25
Thos. Prosser.....	25
F. Woodruff.....	25
G. C. Robinson.....	25
Geo. M. Olcott.....	25
J. H. Pettinger.....	25
W. P. Beale.....	25
F. Hathaway.....	25
S. W. Green.....	25
E. S. Mills.....	25
Mrs. Clark.....	20
E. W. Cromwell.....	15
Achille Magni.....	10
Robert Foster.....	10
A Friend.....	10
W. H. Bailey.....	10
J. E. Miller.....	10
Richard Field.....	10
H. R. Cone.....	10
J. M. Leavitt.....	10
H. E. Dodge.....	10
H. Calef.....	10
A Friend.....	5
A Friend.....	5
A Friend.....	5
Miss Haviland.....	5
W. H. Taylor.....	5
Miss Sweet.....	5
Mrs. Silleck.....	5
E. Cromwell.....	5

For Music Fund.

N. H. Cary.....	\$50
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800
385
1185

3625
550
4175

550
165
385 others





